

DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR OVERBERG DISTRICT

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Western Cape remains one of the most disaster-prone provinces in South Africa. Its diversity of ecosystems includes coastal habitats, semi-arid/arid inland areas, mountain ranges and densely populated urban settlements. Particularly rapid growth in urban areas has been reflected in the expansion of informal settlements in under-served and often environmentally fragile areas, at the same time formal development has pushed the urban fringe into fire-dependent ecological zones. Poverty is a major risk factor for disaster prone activities in our district. In addition our industry of tourism exposes people from outside our area to disasters if they occur.

2. LEGISLATION:

The appropriate legislation:

Constitution, 1996 – Listed in Schedule 4A as concurrent National and Provincial legislative competence area.

Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002)

The Disaster Management Act provides for:

- an integrated and coordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disasters, and post-disaster recovery
- the establishment of national, provincial and municipal disaster management centers
- disaster management volunteers
- matters relating to these issues.

The Act recognizes the wide-ranging opportunities in South Africa to avoid and reduce disaster losses through the concerted energies and efforts of all spheres of government, civil society and the private sector. However, it also acknowledges the need for uniformity in the approach taken by such a

diversity of role players and partners. To ensure this consistency across multiple interest groups, the Disaster Management Act called for the development of a national disaster management framework, 'to provide a coherent, transparent and inclusive policy on disaster management appropriate for the Republic as a whole' (section 7(1)).

3. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK:

The National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF) makes provision for elaborated six key performance areas to guide a coherent and uniform approach to disaster management in South Africa and to direct disaster management efforts in all spheres of government. The six key performance areas specified in the national framework are:

- institutional capacity for disaster management
- risk assessment and monitoring
- disaster management planning and implementation
- disaster response and recovery, and rehabilitation and reconstruction
- public awareness, education, training and research
- monitoring, evaluation and improvement.

The NDMF assigns priority to a wide diversity of risks and disasters that are relevant to southern Africa, as well as developmental measures that reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas, communities and households. Also, in keeping with international best practice, the NDMF places explicit emphasis on the disaster risk reduction concepts of disaster prevention and mitigation as the core principles to guide disaster management in South Africa.

To facilitate consistency in the implementation of disaster management across and within all spheres of government, the Disaster Management Act also calls for the development of provincial and municipal disaster management frameworks that are consistent with both the Act and the NDMF (sections 28(1), (2), 42(1), (2), (3)).

4. PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK:

The Western Cape Disaster Management Framework seeks to add through its emphasis on vulnerability reduction in disaster-prone areas, communities and households, together with its focus on integrating disaster prevention and mitigation (risk reduction) efforts into ongoing development initiatives

The Western Cape Disaster Management Framework comprises seven key performance areas (KPA's). Each KPA is informed by specified objectives and key performance indicators (KPI's) to guide and monitor its implementation.

Key performance area 1 focuses on establishing the necessary institutional arrangements for implementing disaster management within the Western Cape Province and describes some of the mechanisms for funding disaster management. It specifically addresses the application of the principles of cooperative governance for the purposes of disaster management. It also emphasizes the involvement of key stakeholders in strengthening the capabilities of provincial and municipal organs of state to reduce the likelihood and severity of disasters

Key performance area 2 focuses on priorities related to the establishment of a provincial disaster management information system, along with disaster management communications and provincial public information and awareness requirements. It addresses provincial requirements to promote and support a broad-based culture of risk avoidance through strengthened public awareness and responsibility.

Key performance area 3 addresses the need for provincial disaster risk assessment and monitoring to set priorities, guide risk reduction action and monitor the effectiveness of our efforts. Although the Western Cape faces many different types of risks, disaster risk specifically refers to the likelihood of harm or loss due to the action of hazards or other external threats on vulnerable structures, services, areas, communities and households.

Key performance area 4 outlines requirements for disaster management planning and implementation to inform developmentally-oriented approaches, plans, programs and projects that reduce disaster risks. It addresses needs to align disaster management frameworks and planning within all spheres of government, and gives particular attention to the planning for and integration of the core risk reduction principles of prevention and mitigation into ongoing programs and initiatives.

Key performance area 5 presents provincial priorities concerned with implementing disaster response and recovery and rehabilitation. KPA 5 addresses requirements in the Act for an integrated and coordinated policy that focuses on rapid and effective response to disasters and post-disaster recovery. When a significant event or disaster occurs or is threatening to occur, it is imperative that there must be no confusion as to roles and responsibilities and the procedures to be followed. KPA 5 describes measures to ensure effective disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation planning.

Key performance area 6 addresses provincial disaster management priorities in education, training, capacity building and research. KPA 6 describes mechanisms for the development of both non-accredited and accredited education and training for disaster management and associated professions and the incorporation of relevant aspects of disaster management in primary and secondary school curricula. It also addresses priorities and mechanisms for supporting and developing a coherent and collaborative provincial disaster risk research agenda.

Key performance area 7 presents the funding and financial arrangements for establishing and implementing disaster management in the Western Cape.

5. DISTRICT FRAMEWORK:

The District [ODM] follow the same structure of the Province for the framework to ensure effective coordination. Additionally the ODM functions at grassroots level and address the local coordination with B municipalities and

other organizations and community involvement in applying the theory to community level in an African setting.

APPROACH:

The building pillars for this framework and strategy will thus be COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, RISK ASSESMENT, and EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION

These will be applied in the fields of Prevention, Preparation, Rapid Response, Mitigation and Rehabilitation.

KEY PERFORMANCE AREA [KPA] 1- INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Key performance area 1 focuses on establishing the necessary institutional arrangements for implementing disaster management within the Overberg District. It specifically addresses the application of the principles of cooperative governance and community and business involvement for the purposes of disaster management. It also emphasizes the involvement of key stakeholders in strengthening the capabilities of municipal organs of state to reduce the likelihood and severity of disasters.

Issues to be addressed will be:

- Disaster Management Centre: (Art. 43) already established at Bredasdorp
- Head of DM Centre: (Art. 45(1) of the DMAct): Reinard Geldenhuys
- Disaster Management Advisory Forum (article 51 of the DMAct)
- Internal organization in the ODM/Municipality: (Art 44(b) i).
- External organization to accommodate role players.
- Human Rights issues like gender, disabilities, rural people and poverty alleviation should be kept in mind.

We should build as far as possible on existing structures to accommodate the full programs of government officials and community leaders.

KPA 2 –INFORMATION AND EDUCATION:

Key performance area 2 focuses on priorities related to the establishment of a District disaster management information system, along with disaster

management communications and public information and awareness requirements. It addresses requirements to promote and support a broad-based culture of risk avoidance through strengthened public awareness and responsibility.

KPA 3 – RISK ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING:

Key performance area 3 addresses the need for disaster risk assessment and monitoring to set priorities, guide risk reduction actions and monitor the effectiveness of all efforts. Although the District faces many different types of risk, disaster risk specifically refers to the likelihood of harm or loss due to the action of hazards or other external threats on vulnerable structures, services, areas, communities and households. These are the mostly occurring fires and floods.

- A Risk & Vulnerability assessment has been done in the Overberg and is constantly updated..

KPA 4 – DM PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION:

Key performance area 4 outlines requirements for disaster management planning and implementation to inform developmentally-oriented approaches, plans, programs and projects that reduce disaster risks. It addresses needs to align disaster management frameworks and planning within all spheres of government, and gives particular attention to the planning for and integration of the core risk reduction principles of prevention and mitigation into ongoing programs and initiatives.

KPA 5 – DISASTER RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION:

Key performance area 5 presents priorities concerned with implementing disaster response and recovery and rehabilitation. KPA 5 addresses requirements in the Act for an integrated and coordinated policy that focuses on rapid and effective response [Resilience] to disasters and post-disaster recovery. When a significant event or disaster occurs or is threatening to occur, it is imperative that there must be no confusion as to roles and

responsibilities and the procedures to be followed. KPA 5 describes measures to ensure effective disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation planning.

KPA 6 – D M TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING:

Key performance area 6 addresses the District's disaster management priorities in education, training, capacity building and research. Training for disaster management and associated professions and all role players as well as community members and volunteers will be developed. Special focus and assistance will be given to volunteer organizations like Red Cross, NSRI, Volunteer Wildfire services, Wilderness Search and Rescue etc. to support them with training and logistics. The stronger the volunteers supporting us, the stronger we are. The Greater Overberg Fire Prevention Association is a strong roleplayer in the addressing one of our major risks and training is also focused on them.

A new Safer Communities project envisaged through the IDP for 2015/2016 will encompass a lot of this KPA.

KPA 7 – BUDGET

Key performance area 7 presents the funding and financial arrangements for establishing and implementing disaster management in the District. It will make provision for:

Staff –Head of Centre Disaster Management Officials -5 to start with – one in every Municipality.

Volunteers training and cost recovery.

Communication systems

Infrastructure

KPA 8 - STANDARD OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES [SOP's]:

KPA 8 will follow the approach to ensure the functionality of DM by developing SOP's. These will be addressed under the other KPA's where applicable.

SOP's for emergency incidents and disaster response are already in place.

KPA 9- MAINSTREAMING ISSUES:

This KPA will ensure that attention is given to mainstreaming issues that will ensure an African approach namely: GENDER, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, CREATIVITY AND THINKING OF CHILDREN, WATER, and POVERTY AND DISEASE. The effect of climatic change [global warming] which will hit Africa hardest will also be addressed.

KPA 10 – MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT:

In this KPA provision will be made for monitoring the programme according to the objectives set in every KPA by the time and target dates set. Progress will be evaluated and improvements made according to the Performance Management System of Council.

Reinard Geldenhuys

Manager: Protection Services

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